THE
FRED'S FOOTSTEPS
FELLOWSHIP

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Founded in the spirit of Fred DiBona's commitment to leadership and giving back, the Fred's Footsteps Fellowship is a selective, 12-month leadership and service program for emerging professionals across Greater Philadelphia.

Through an immersive two-day conference featuring accomplished business and community leaders, meaningful peer connections, and a hands-on service-learning project, Fellows gain new perspectives, strengthen their leadership skills, and put their talents to work for a greater purpose.

More than a professional development experience, the Fellowship cultivates lasting relationships and inspires the next generation of community leaders and philanthropic champions.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Have ~5–15 years of professional experience
- Demonstrate leadership in their workplace and/or community
- Are curious, collaborative, and open to new perspectives
- Value service, community, and meaningful relationships
- Are prepared to make the time commitment required to participate fully
- Represent a wide range of industries, backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives

No previous involvement with Fred's Footsteps is required.

LOGISTICS

- Kick-off Welcome party: Wednesday, February 10, 2027
- Two-day workshop: Thursday, April 8 & Friday, April 9, 2027
- Projects begin April 2027, with a final presentation to the Board of Directors in late fall of 2027
- Tuition is a $750 contribution, raised or paid, to Fred's Footsteps to cover program costs. Companies are expected to sponsor their participant; limited scholarships are available as well.

APPLY HERE



ABOUT FRED'S FOOTSTEPS

Fred's Footsteps provides direct financial assistance to families in the Greater Philadelphia region facing overwhelming expenses due to a child's critical medical condition. In two decades of service, the organization has supported more than 2,000 families with over $11 million in aid. www.fredsfootsteps.org

ABOUT G. FRED DIBONA, JR.

Fred's Footsteps was founded in memory of G. Fred DiBona, Jr., a South Philadelphia native who rose to become President and CEO of Independence Blue Cross and a respected leader in Philadelphia's business community. But beyond his professional success, Fred was known for his big heart, loyalty, sense of humor, and unwavering commitment to helping others. He had a special place in his heart for the underdog, and when he saw someone facing hardship, especially a child, he did everything in his power to make a difference.

CLASS OF 2027-28

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PAST FELLOWSHIP FACULTY

Founded in 2015, the Fred's Footsteps Fellowship has a history of bringing emerging professionals together with some of Greater Philadelphia's most accomplished business and community leaders for candid conversations, fresh perspectives, and lessons and connections that extend well beyond the conference room.

- Mary Stengel Austen, Former CEO & President, Tierney
- Anoop Bhogal, Senior Manager, Song Health & Public Service, Accenture
- Jonathan Brassington, Co-Founder & General Partner, Proofpoint Capital
- Chris Cashman, Former Executive Vice President and Chief Transformation Officer, Independence Blue Cross
- Gina Clark, Former Executive Vice President and Chief Communications & Administration Officer, AmerisourceBergen
- Robert DiStanislao, Owner and President, RDS Enterprises
- Fran Dunphy, Temple University Men's Basketball Coach
- Jon Greenawalt, President & Founder, ThinkGrowth Performance Consulting
- Sheila Hess, Former City Representative, City of Philadelphia
- Evan Higgins, Former Fred's Footsteps Recipient
- Daniel J. Hilferty, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Comcast Spectacor

FRED'S FOOTSTEPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sylvia DiBona — Board Chair, Fred's Footsteps
Christine DiBona Lobley — Executive Director, Fred's Footsteps
Michael A. Bova — Retired Managing Director, Accenture
Jonathan Brassington — EVP, Digital Customer Experience (DCX), North America, Capgemini
Teresa DiBona — Board Member, Fred's Footsteps
G. Fred DiBona III — Principal, DiBona Associates, LLC
Patrick Gillespie, Jr. — President, Shannon Outdoor Advertising, Inc.
Regina Heffernan* — Director of Strategic Partnerships, tango
Sheila Hess — Former City Representative, City of Philadelphia
Daniel J. Hilferty — Chief Executive Officer and Chairman, Comcast Spectacor
Brian Lobley — Chief Executive Officer, tango
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Matt Webb — Former Senior Vice President, Global Brand & Experience, Cencora
**Fellows Board Seat*

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Nicholas DeBenedictis — Chairman, President & CEO (Retired), Aqua America
Joseph Frick — Former President & CEO, Independence Blue Cross
Rosemarie Greco — Founding Principal, GRECO Ventures Ltd